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The New Year Outlook

BEFORE another issue of this journal New Year's Day will have come and gone. The merchants are taking account of their stocks and it is an appropriate time for the newspapers to do likewise, to take account of stock and make preparations for the coming year.

We see that in all the eastern cities and in Canada there is a cry of hard times. The most serious cry of all is that of poor men wanting work and unable to obtain it. There are complaints from all the eastern cities of an unwonted dullness in trade. The symptoms seem to be that the business of the country outside is slowing down, and this is general, east and west.

Hence as we look around us here in Utah we have a right to be a little bit exultant, because the mines surrounding us and the mines at Bingham and Park City are meeting every month a payroll which is a constant great re-enforcement of the money of the state. The harvest has been good, the sugar mills have paid, the ranges have paid, the orchards have paid, and there has been a market for everything produced from the soil, from the orchard and from the mine.

And now looking exultingly forth we notice that both the Short Line and the Rio Grande are preparing for extensive improvements and extensions; the double-tracking of many miles of road, the extension of track to new points, the preparations for building great terminals in our city, terminals and machine shops, the mines which have been our best reliance are looking better on this New Year's than they did a year ago; and the merchants in the city are rejoicing over a prosperous trade, and the natural conclusion is that our city here is in the best situation of any city east or west, except, perhaps, one or two tremendous sea coast ports which are sustained by a trade and travel that moves to and fro regardless almost of good or bad times.

There is more land in Utah awaiting cultivation with water to supply it than there was a year ago. In any direction the prospect is fair. We look before the next year to see a new road built into the Deep Creek country, and that we have been telling the people for twenty-five years ought to be the best tributary that the city can possibly have. It may seem like rubbing it in a little, but had the city followed our advice twenty-five years ago, had the city and a few of its rich men simply made an effort which would not have been costly to any one of them, and any one of them could have carried it easily, we would have had tributary to this city all of the mining districts—more than twenty in number—between this city and Goldfield, Nevada, and the wealth it would have brought to the projectors and builders

of the road would have made them all multi-millionaires; and had the city but possessed the enterprise and the nerve to loan its credit for a few hundred thousand dollars, for half what now the advocates of good roads want the city to mortgage itself for, the revenue from the road would have paid all the city's current expenses and would have given it parks, boulevards and new temples to art and learning, which would have made it the envy of the land, east and west. And we think it fair to state as it is, that right now no resident of Salt Lake with a little capital can go to any other place and do as well as he can do right here; that no laborers can leave here with the hope of obtaining better pay or more regular work in any other city, east or west.

Hence the New Year's greetings this year ought to be joyous and the Happy New Year ought to be spoken with full hearts, for indeed the present situation and the prospects for the immediate future are better for Salt Lake than for any other town between the seas.

Boomers and the Result

THE real estate boomers of California for a year and a half past have been painting the state as an almost unoccupied Eden, a garden laden with fruits and flowers only waiting for people to occupy it. Some months ago we asked how much land that could be profitably cultivated without water to irrigate it, could be obtained, and how much with water to irrigate it could be had, and asked those interested what they would do with the hundreds of thousands of poor immigrants that they expected would rush in when the canal should be finished and the new steamship lines from southern Europe began to unload the thousands upon them.

They did not respond, as we hoped they would. They answered nothing that we asked, but merely reiterated that there was room for all. Then we asked for practical details, something that an honest would-be immigrant could depend upon, and the second answer was but a louder reiteration of what had been first proclaimed. One knave or idiot, we do not know which, asserted that San Joaquin county alone could take care of 1,000,000 people.

Now it seems that some of the birds have already come home to roost. San Francisco and Los Angeles, it seems, are crowded with thousands of men and women who have nothing and are clamoring for something to do by which to obtain food. We were all the time afraid of such a climax, for while California is a great and glorified state, she is not yet prepared to give great hosts of people employment, and until her rivers are turned and her waters scientifically impounded, she never will be prepared for a dense population of farmers and fruit-growers.

The danger ahead is so portentous that in our judgment the Federal Government should send experts there to investigate and if necessary warn would-be immigrants away.

We think so because other states are directly interested. Already a good many of the disappointed ones have drifted from California to Utah. Utah has her own people to look after and when her land-dealers invite people from the outside it is because at vast expense some great tract of land has been supplied with water to irrigate it. No state should be made to suffer because unscrupulous boomers in another state have drawn crowds that cannot be given employment in the

state of the boomers and are forced to invade other states. We never saw more unscrupulous booming than was done in Los Angeles last spring. And if suffering comes from it the boomers are the ones who should have the punishment.

Duty Not to be Shirked

ALARGE contingent of men in this country would be glad to see the United States shirk its manifest duty in the Philippines.

For a time Mr. Bryan wanted the United States to turn over the business to the natives, using the old argument, never intended to apply in such a case, that no people were good enough to rule another people. The latest plan to be presented is that our country should call in some outside power to send representatives and establish a joint international government.

All that looks to us like an attempt or at least a desire to shirk a manifest duty.

It is worse than that even, it is discounting our country's influence, and, in a measure, casting a reproach upon our flag. At present our flag is the only light in the far east. When Admiral Dewey planted it in Manila, without the loss of one life, the world was electrified and a thrill ran through that mysterious east which was a notice that a new dispensation had come, that the old order was to pass away, and that the poor and oppressed of the earth were to slowly emerge into the light. That was not long ago but many miracles have already been performed there. The slavery that comes of debt has ceased to exist. The perpetual revolutions and assassinations have been stopped. Thousands of schools have been opened; order has been established; protection has been drawn around life and property; roads have been opened so that the poor workers can find a market for what they produce, and the work is moving steadily on.

We have no right to stop this work. It would be a vast calamity to the people of the islands; it would lower us and our country in the estimation of the whole east. Because of that work China, in a way, has established a Republican form of government and did it too against the protests of both Russia and Japan.

Because of it, a mighty unrest prevails throughout the millions of India and a vague dream possesses that people of larger privileges for the masses of men.

To continue the work begun there is duty. We believe it is destiny.

We are not at all certain that it will not soon be duty to do the same thing by Mexico. The atrocities being committed there cannot last forever.

More than three score years ago Texas had conquered her independence from Mexico and asked for admission into our Union of states, which was granted. At this Mexico declared war. Our little armies soon conquered a peace and then continued to hold California, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah, paying Mexico some \$15,000,000 as a balm for loss. At that time Mexico had been rent by revolution for half a century; they have continued ever since, save through the period that Diaz held the country quiet by his mild despotism. Who say it would not be a mercy for our country to go there and establish peace and justice, and order and law?